

grateful for his longstanding partnership in serving the people of St. Joseph County. As he and his family embark on a new chapter, I wish them continued good health and happiness.

**HONORING ANTHONY GALAGAZA
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE BA-
KERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bakersfield Fire Department Chief Anthony Galagaza on his retirement from the Bakersfield Fire Department after 30 years of public service to our community.

Anthony's career as a first responder and exposure to firefighting began when he accepted a summer position in 1989 as a seasonal firefighter for the United States Bureau of Land Management. Captivated by the field, Anthony decided to take his talents to the Bakersfield Fire Department, where he would complete over 30 years of service. Indicative of his knowledge of public safety and passion for helping others in times of crisis, Anthony quickly climbed the ladder within the Department. In 1990, Anthony started out as a reserve firefighter and in 1992 became a full-time firefighter. In 2013, Anthony was promoted to Fire Battalion Chief after serving as a fire engineer and Fire Captain. Five years later, Anthony was tapped to become the Fire Chief, overseeing the Department's fleet of personnel, fire stations, and various divisions.

During his tenure as Fire Chief, Anthony has transformed the Department to ensure it had the staff and resources necessary to tackle the challenges of the next decade. Some of his major achievements include significantly increasing the number of rescue squads and arson personnel in the Department, advancing health and wellness programs for Department staff and firefighters, and fostering public trust in the community. The emphasis on public trust and outreach helped the Bakersfield Fire Department maintain its elite status among fire departments as a recipient of a class two rating by the Insurance Services Office, which assesses the ability of a fire department to respond effectively to fires in its area of responsibility. This high rating indicates the effectiveness of the Bakersfield Fire Department and is a testament to Anthony's effective leadership as the Fire Chief.

Anthony's investment in, and passion for, keeping the people of Bakersfield safe is without question. That is why, in August 2021, as House Republican Leader, I had the privilege to appoint him to the Medal of Valor Review Board, which reviews individuals to be awarded the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor—the highest national award for valor a public safety officer can receive—and make recommendations to the White House.

Throughout his career, Anthony has dedicated himself to serving others, building trust in the city, and ensuring the safety and security of homes, schools, and workplaces in our community. He has been integral in highlighting the value of our firefighting and dispatch personnel and will be missed by the Ba-

kersfield Fire Department, which he has referred to as his second family. On behalf of the people of Bakersfield and the 23rd Congressional District of California, I would like to thank Anthony for his decades of service to our community and I wish him and his family the very best as he starts this next chapter of his life.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the global competition for ideas between the community of democracies and the People's Republic of China (PRC) is nowhere more apparent than in Kazakhstan, where the PRC has steadily increased its influence in the country since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The PRC wants Kazakh oil, cheap Kazakh labor, and most importantly, Kazakh government help silencing predominantly-Muslim Central Asian peoples, whose reports of genocide on their kinsmen in Xinjiang are inconvenient and embarrassing to the PRC.

While pursuing their goals in Kazakhstan, the PRC pushes its authoritarian governance model, a growing contempt for human rights, and assistance with mass surveillance tools. And too many Kazakh leaders have proven to be all-too-willing accomplices.

Perhaps most troubling is the PRC's pressure on Kazakhstan to keep Kazakhs, Uyghurs, Kyrgyz and other Central Asians silent about the genocide and other gross violations of human rights in Xinjiang. On July 13, 2021, Gulzira Auelkhan, an ethnic Kazakh from the PRC who had emigrated to Kazakhstan but returned to China, gave heart-breaking testimony at the hearing I chaired at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission about her experience as a survivor of China's concentration camps.

Ms. Auelkhan testified that while she was in the camp, Chinese authorities subjected her to physical, mental, and spiritual torture. One particularly disturbing story was that Chinese authorities inserted needles under her fingernails for attempting to cheat on a Chinese language exam. She also testified that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) runs a forced prostitution system inside these camps, where Chinese men routinely rape the female prisoners.

While Chinese authorities released her due to pressure from a Radio Free Asia story that revealed her plight, Gulzira's troubles only increased upon her return to Kazakhstan. Instead of sympathy, Kazakh officials intimidated her, and pressured her family to stop speaking out about the horrors she experienced in Xinjiang. Her refusal to stay silent resulted in her having to flee to the United States in search of a place where she could speak freely about the Chinese concentration camps, and how Kazakhstan rejected her.

The fact that Kazakhstan enables China's genocide in Xinjiang arises from Kazakhstan's dependence upon PRC's massive monetary investments, including in the Belt and Road Initiative, and the malfeasance of kleptocratic Kazakh officials.

Some of these corrupt officials reportedly have ties with the Eurasian Natural Resources

Corporation (ENRC), a Kazakh-based company that three billionaire Kazakh businessmen and the Kazakh government founded. ENRC shares ties with members of the former president's family, particularly Timur Kulibayev, who was part of a questionable pipeline deal brokered with Chinese entities. The company has also been investigated by the UK's Serious Fraud Office (SFO).

Sadly the record of gross human rights violations by government officials acting with impunity is not new in Kazakhstan. In 2012, at a hearing I chaired, entitled: "Kazakhstan: As Stable As It's Government Claims?", our witnesses provided expert testimony questioning the stability of the country and exposing statewide corruption and massive human rights abuses sanctioned by the Kazakhstan government—including torture and abuse by government security forces.

At the time, the government of Kazakhstan was headed by the former authoritarian "President for Life" Nazarbayev, who ruled with an iron fist, snuffing out dissent and fighting hard to obscure the serious human rights and democracy deficiencies that marked his reign.

Today, unfortunately, his oldest daughter, Dariga Nazarbayeva reportedly carries on the family legacy of corruption as a member of the Kazakh Congress.

According to the Eurasia Democracy Initiative, Dariga Nazarbayeva used an illegal passport to open multiple Austrian bank accounts containing millions of dollars, tapping her position and her father's to launder ill-gotten wealth out of the country. A Times of London article recently revealed that she and her son owned over £140 million of property, including the fictional home of Sherlock Holmes, located on 221b Baker Street.

There is little hope that these oligarchs, rich with money stolen from their own people with the assistance the genocidal foreign regime of the PRC, will even-handedly administer justice or respect human rights when they so readily abuse the rule of law, jeopardizing the rights and security of their fellow Kazakh citizens at the apparent behest of the CCP and for their own financial interests.

The Biden Administration must engage the government of Kazakhstan more forcefully, including the use of sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in pressing the Biden Administration to elevate and combat the human rights abuses in Kazakhstan, address corruption in this strategic part of the world, and do everything it can to counter the CCP's baneful influence in Kazakhstan.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDAL
S. MACDONALD**

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Randal (Randy) S. MacDonald, who died unexpectedly on October 6, 2021. Randy is deserving of recognition for his life-long commitment to protecting our environment, and his passionate efforts to educate and inspire action to address the existential crisis of climate change.